

AUSTRALIA









INTRODUCTION

Prehistoric settlers arrived on the continent from Southeast Asia at least 40,000 years before the first Europeans began exploration in the 17th century. All of Australia was claimed as British territory in 1829. Independence was achieved in 1901.

GOVERNMENT

Chief of State

Queen ELIZABETH II represented by Governor Gen. David HURLEY

Head of Government

Prime Minister Scott MORRISON

Government Type

federal parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Canberra

Legislature

bicameral Federal Parliament consists of Senate (76 seats) and House of Representatives (150 seats)

GEOGRAPHY

Area

Total: 7,741,220 sq km Land: 7,682,300 sq km Water: 58,920 sq km

Climate

generally arid to semiarid; temperate in south and east; tropical in north

Natural Resources

alumina, coal, iron ore, copper, tin, gold, silver, uranium, nickel, tungsten, rare earth elements, mineral sands, lead, zinc, diamonds, natural gas, petroleum; note - Australia is the world's largest net exporter of coal accounting for 29% of global coal exports

ECONOMY

Economic Overview

Asian and global economic leader and partner for 3 decades; strong financial sector and highly traded domestic currency support best credit ratings; aging workforce; export-led model; reduced consumer spending offset by government and business; energy investor

GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) \$1.251 trillion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$48,700 (2020 est.)
Industries - mining, industrial and transportation equipment, food processing, chemicals, steel

Agricultural products - sugarcane, wheat, barley, milk, rapeseed, beef, cotton, grapes, poultry, potatoes

Exports \$299 billion (2020 est.)

iron ore, coal, natural gas, gold, aluminum oxide (2019) **partners:** China 39%, Japan 15%, South Korea 7%, India 5% (2019)

Imports \$249.1 billion (2020 est.)

refined petroleum, cars, crude petroleum, broadcasting equipment, delivery trucks (2019)

partners: China 25%, US 12%, Japan 7%, Germany 5%, Thailand 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

25.8 million (July 2021 est.)

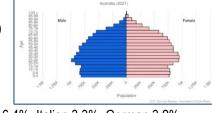
Population Growth

1.31% (2021 est.)

Ethnicity

English 25.9%, Australian

25.4%, Irish 7.5%, Scottish 6.4%, Italian 3.3%, German 3.2%, Chinese 3.1%, Indian 1.4%, Greek 1.4%, Dutch 1.2%, other 15.8% (includes Australian aboriginal .5%), unspecified 5.4% (2011 est.)



Population Pyramid

Language

English 72.7%, Mandarin 2.5%, Arabic 1.4%, Cantonese 1.2%, Vietnamese 1.2%, Italian 1.2%, Greek 1%, other 14.8%, unspecified 6.5% (2016 est.)

Religion

Protestant 23.1%, Roman Catholic 22.6%, other Christian 4.2%, Muslim 2.6%, Buddhist 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3%, Hindu 1.9%, other 1.3%, none 30.1%, unspecified 9.6% (2016 est.)